



College District – NJSFWC of GFWC, P.O. Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875
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 Newsletter Editor - Nancy Gale, NancLG@aol.com, 848-702-9714 (cell)



February 1, 2022 Newsletter



FWC Calendar

Feb 1 – FWC Book Club via Zoom @7pm
 Feb 8 – FWC General Meeting @630pm – future update for location
 Feb 26 – Leadership Workshop, NJSFWC headquarters, 10am-12pm

A Message from the FWC President, Phyllis Beals, awpbeals@comcast.net, (732) 331-3416 (cell)

What will February bring? Hopefully some respite from the extreme cold of January, and a decrease in the Covid-19 virus.

This officer wishes to extend a big thank you to Stephanie Carr, VP for Membership for presiding at the January membership meeting held on zoom, and similarly to Amy Manifase, VP for Programs for lining up the excellent speaker on Consumer Fraud.

Please look for an announcement by the end of this week regarding the February 8 membership meeting as to whether it will be in person or on zoom. Based on declining covid-19 rate of infection we may meet back in person at the FHS cafeteria. Amy has arranged another great program sure to delight us this month. Also, we will hear about the ban on single use plastics going into effect in May.

Remember to visit the NJSFWC website and explore the Materials Section. You will be amazed at all the opportunities and information. You do not need a user ID or password to visit and explore the website.

Federation News from College District VP, Mary Lou Bak, marylb656@cs.com

The January Council gave clubs in our District the chance to share programs they held last year. Attendees enjoyed learning what other clubs have done and took back many ideas to their clubs.

Also at the Council, the Federation Performing Arts Chair and our District Performing Arts Chair performed a short skit. It was one example of what members can enter in the District Performing Arts Day on March 24th, 10 AM at Federation Headquarters. Please consider performing a skit--no memorization needed--as well as reading a poem or a short story, telling about an interesting event or person, or singing. For questions or to register you can contact Phyllis or me.

Programs – Amy Manifase, 1st VP, Programs, shantimanifest@gmail.com



Although, as of publication, we're not sure whether we will be meeting in person or via zoom, our February 8th program will be **Backyard Birds**. Ever wonder about the birds in your backyard? This lecture will help you get acquainted with many of New Jersey's common backyard birds. Join Naturalist Ben

Barkley and spend some time learning the fundamentals of backyard bird watching. You will learn basic identification skills, what to feed backyard birds, as well as when and where.

Membership – Stephanie Carr, Chair, stephpto@comcast.net, (cell) 732-668-5430 (Assistant: Mary Ann Renzulli)

I'd like to shout out a big THANK YOU, to the Membership Committee this past year: MaryAnn Renzuli, Sharon Coney, Ellen Junas, Phyllis Beals, and Kathy Deily/Sunshine. The 2021 Membership Report for NJSFWC I just completed, shows we had 8 new members, volunteered about 150 hours of our time towards membership activities, and supported 23 projects aligned with membership.

A reminder to all members, our website franklinwomansclub.com, contains a For Members (members only) section under the tab MORE. It contains our club newsletters, a soon-to-be link to our monthly meeting approved minutes, treasurer forms and more. The 'For Members' page requires a name and password to access it. The name and password to use is activemember, all one word/lower case for both your name and password.

Going to <https://franklinwomansclub.webs.com> under **More**, pull down to **For Members**. It will periodically ask you for your name (activemember) and password (activemember).

Guests: If you have a guest interested in attending our February meeting, please let Stephanie know so she can contact them. We are open for new members, and guests are always welcomed.

Information on renewing your club membership for the 2022-2023 club year will be in our March newsletter.

Arts and Culture - Geri Krassowski, Chair, gerik2@gmail.com

- In recognition of Black History Month, the county library is presenting 2 virtual programs.

>In honor of Abe Lincoln's birthday in Feb the county library is presenting -

Music of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War on Wednesday 2/16 at 7 pm.

Anne Enslow plays the hammered and mountain dulcimers. Ridley plays violin, and they both sing. The duo has performed extensively throughout New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. They presented parts of this program at the New York State Capitol building in Albany to mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's funeral train passing through that city on its way back to Springfield, Illinois.

Anne and Ridley have recorded six CDs of historical music. This program will include many of the songs on their CD "Music for Abraham Lincoln," which was recognized by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and their Civil War CD, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Here is the link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5208062>

>Also, historical actors will present -

Meet Harriet Beecher Stowe - Uncle Tom's Cabin portrayed by Kim Hanley from the American Historical Theater on Monday 2/28 at 7 pm

Here is the link to register:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5074658>

- **Arts and Culture Achievement Day Contest** – find the information page, categories to be judged, and the entry form on the club website, in the Members Only section. More details to be shared in next month's newsletter.

Arts Performing – Delores Still, Chair, gvxm33a@prodigy.net

District Performing Arts Day – Will be held March 24 at the NJSFWC headquarters. Come show your talent with a song (even lip synching), a poem reading, a short skit. Get a friend to join you and have fun! Deadline to register is Mar 17th.



Education & Libraries – Cheray Wright, Chair, cright_1993@comcast.net, 732-208-9576

- **Girls Career Institute (GCI)**

We are still awaiting word from Rutgers regarding our use of the dorms for GCI. We do not expect to hear until February. We remain cautiously optimistic. All materials for GCI were sent out to Franklin High School, Thomas Edison, and Central Jersey College Prep Charter School. The delegates will be selected during the week of 2/19th.

- **Scholarship**

Senior Scholarship Applications were sent out to nine schools in Somerset County in January to the following schools: Franklin High School, Thomas Edison, Central Jersey College Prep Charter School, Rutgers Preparatory School, Immaculata High School, Pingry, Union Catholic, Somerset County VoTec, and Timothy-Christian. This year the FWC will be awarding four scholarships to seniors that reside in Franklin Township, will graduate high school in Spring of 2022, and are accepted to a 2- or 4-year college. The Application Committee review process will start from 3/12th – 3/26th.



- **Book Donations**

We are still collecting gently used or new books (Kindergarten – to 5th Grade levels) for Read Across America Day in March. FWC will be donating the books to Pine Grove, MacAfee, and Hillcrest. The deadline is February 14th. Book collections from members will be at the Feb 8th meeting if held in person. If you have any books to donate, please contact Cheray Wright, Sharon Siewert, or Phyllis Beals.



Environment – Nancy Gale, Co-Chair, NanclG@aol.com; Geri Krassowski, Co-Chair, gerik2@gmail.com

- **A positive note for 2021 for Monarch Butterflies!** (From the NJSFWC Feb Almanac) - The western monarch population number counted in California is around 100,000! This is the highest number counted in 5 years. Last year there were approximately 2,000 counted. What an improvement! However, citizen scientists are trying to figure out what has helped the monarch population increase so drastically from the previous year. There are any factors that may go into the population numbers from year to year, but everyone is hopeful that the increase could be due in part, by the increase in milkweed plantings throughout their migration route. The eastern monarch population count will be out sometime in February and is not available at this time. But...so far, the news is, activity has remained high as the monarchs start gathering and overwintering in Texas and Mexico. So, let's keep up the good work and plant some native New Jersey pollinator host and nectar plants this spring. Make sure to include late flowering plants that can help migrating monarchs as well as overwintering pollinators. You do not need to have acres of land to help. A few native nectar and host plants in your yard can help increase the population of pollinators and ensure their future success in our community!



- **2022 Environment Achievement Day** – Achievement Day contests are held in each district in the spring, this year on April 21st. The Environment contests are divided into two divisions – Artistic Design and Horticulture. Categories under Artistic Design include such things as flower arrangements (fresh and dried), potpourri, and pressed flowers. Horticulture is where you can show off your houseplants, such as orchids, succulents, and African violets. See the Environment Achievement Day Contest Info sent with this newsletter. This document, and the Achievement Day Environment Registration form, can be found on our club's website, in the Members Only section (under More at top of the home page). Take a look and I'm sure you'll find something you can achieve!

Health and Wellness - Valerie Buckner, Chair, yabuckner@comcast.net, 732-859-4327 (cell)

February is Women's Heart Health Awareness Month - Heart disease is the number one killer of women as well as men in this country. For many years, far too little attention was given to the fact that women are also vulnerable to this problem, so an annual observance was necessary.



The first Friday in each February is designated as Go Red for Women's Heart Health Day. Let's **wear red** on that day, and let's wear it again to our club meeting on February 8. Remind friends and loved ones why you are wearing red.

Be kind to your heart and treat it like your Valentine! Get a check-up and talk to your doctor about how you can reduce your heart disease risk. Try to work **frequent movement or exercise** into your day and eat a **heart-healthy diet**. Members are once again invited to submit **Heart-Healthy Hints** to be included in the newsletters.

Shot@Life - Thank you for donating \$21 since our last meeting in December!

Legislation and Political Involvement - Sue Carroll, Chair, scarroll@rutgers.edu, 732-690-0916

The hearing before the Franklin Township Zoning Board on the plan to build a four-story apartment complex at the site of the old Kmart on Easton Avenue has been postponed. No information is yet available about a new hearing date for this application.

Since our parent organization has endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, I thought members might be interested in these two excellent pieces on latest developments:

[“The Equal Rights Amendment Has Been Ratified. It Is the Law”: U.S. House Resolution Declares ERA 28th Amendment - Ms. Magazine \(msmagazine.com\)](#)

[Opinion | The Equal Rights Amendment Is Now the Law of the Land. Isn't It? - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Book Club – Maria Hudak, Chair, mhudak0414@yahoo.com



Our January book was “Excellent Women” by Barbara Pym. It was published in 1952 and is considered romantic comic fiction. Mildred Lathbury is a 30-year-old clergyman’s daughter who lives in 1950’s England and is considered an “excellent woman”. A woman who dresses dowdily and men take for granted as she makes tea, arranges flowers in the church, and provides companionship. Mildred gives the reader amusing snapshots of human life through her relationships with neighbors and friends.

If anyone is interested in forming a second Book Club, please contact Maria Hudak. She’ll explain how our evening book club is structured and help connect another group. A good size is 8 – 10 members but less than 8 works well too.

Community Services - Lisa Andreini, Chair, lisa-andreini@comcast.net, 732-692-3309.



Fundraising – Chair needed

Shop Rite Gift Cards – Stephanie Carr, stephpto@comcast.net (732 668-5430)

The Club offers Shop Rite gift cards for personal use or gift-giving. Gift cards in several amounts (\$100, \$50, \$25) are available for purchase. You can purchase them with cash or a check payable to “Franklin Woman's Club”. The club earns 5% on your purchase, so if you shop there regularly, consider buying the gift cards to use for your regular shopping. You can contact Stephanie to purchase cards, and yes, we can arrange to get them to you. Cards are always available at all club meetings and events.



Special State Project – Bonnie Martin, queenbonne@yahoo.com 732-476-8863 (cell)

The State Special Project is sponsoring 2 fundraising events for Operation Chillout!

❖ A BUNCO night is scheduled for March- don't know how to play BUNCO, no problem! Chair Lynn Hrycenko is planning a practice session before the actual event on Saturday, 3/26. See the flyer sent with this newsletter.

Tickets are \$20 at the door
VFW Edison Memorial Post 3117,
53 National Rd
Edison, NJ 08817



If you are planning on attending, let me know so a carpool can be arranged. (732-476-8863)

❖ Mary Lou Bak has tickets for the handmade quilt that is being raffled off to benefit Operation Chillout. The quilt can be seen at NJSFWC.com under Materials, special projects. Tickets are 1 for \$10, or 3 for \$25.

>Operation Chillout has ongoing needs for some projects- including providing tiny homes for veterans, farm based tiny home communities, as well as their annual winter and summer drives for supplies (water bottles, baseball caps, backpacks, sweatshirts, sleeping bags, etc) For \$10 you can rescue a veteran for a night or provide emergency supplies. Read more about how you can help at Operationchillout.com. Please let Patricia Dahl, the Special State Project Chair, know when you donate - dahl@njsfwc.org

Sunshine – Kathy Deily, kdeily142@yahoo.com 

If anyone needs SUNSHINE--e-mail Kathy Deily at kdeily142@yahoo.com and she will send a get well/thinking of you/sympathy card

\$ Notes from the Treasurer \$

Carolyn Lance, Treasurer – kcmlance@verizon.net; (732) 491-1318 (text only); (732) 383-9126 (voice calls); Pat Kaufhold, Asst. Treasurer – daffodilpat@gmail.com

Please remember to use the appropriate form(s) when:

- Submitting monies to be deposited
- Requesting reimbursement of club expenses
- Requesting a check be cut or a bill paid

(No blank checks will be issued, no exceptions)

Forms are available at all meetings and can also be found online on the Franklin Woman's Club website at <https://www.franklinwomansclub.com/treasurer-s-page>.

A copy of the approved budget is also available on the Club's website at <https://www.franklinwomansclub.com/2018%20-%202019%20Budget.pdf>

Members' Corner



February Birthdays

2/5 Sarah Melvin
2/11 Karen Bauer
2/12 Geri Krassowski
2/15 Marilyn Kuna

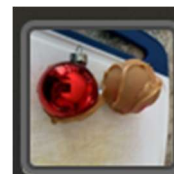


Somerset County Parks Photos (contributed by Nancy Gale) – With this cold weather, would you like to see some lovely pictures of our county parks to remind us of warmer times? The Somerset County Parks 2021 Photo Contest winner's pictures can be viewed online. (You may notice my photo of Colonial Park took second place in the Scenic category.)



<https://www.somersetcountyparks.org/Main%20Page/2021%20Photo%20Contest%20Winners%204.pdf>

Upcycle old ornaments into bird feeders (contributed by Phyllis Beals) - Upcycling is catching on! Old Christmas ball ornaments that are scratched and ready for the trash heap can become bird feeders. Leave a hanging wire in place for later. Take some peanut butter & spread it all over the ornaments. Next dip them in bird seed. Hang on a shrub or tree. If you can place them where birds can perch and nibble it will help. Within minutes of being hung your feathered friends are feasting away.



Local charity support (contributed by Mary Lou Bak - I leased a new car in December, and the car maker lets local dealerships contribute to a local charity for any car leased or bought in December. I learned this after signing the lease when my saleswoman told me the dealership, which is in Somerset, would be making a \$250 donation to "The Center for Great Expectations," which we continue to support as a Club. It was very moving!



Clara Barton Zoom History Chat Review (contributed by Ellen Junas) - On January 15, 2022, Alisa Dupuy portrayed Clara Barton. This was very informative and interesting! Alisa dressed as Clara Barton and spoke about her achievements. Well known fact, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, even though she had no formal training as a nurse! Unknown fact, Clara Barton was a "Jersey Girl" (even though she was born in Massachusetts) she moved to New Jersey. While teaching in Hightstown NJ, Clara noticed in Bordentown there was no free (public) schools. Clara then created the first free school in New Jersey; the school is still standing as a museum in Bordentown. One fact very noteworthy (which intrigued me) she is known for doing humanitarian and civil rights. This is one of the facts: In 1855 she moved to Washington DC worked as a clerk in the US Patent Office. This was the first time a woman was a clerk in government services and received equal pay as a man. The men would abuse and slander her, they demoted her. Clara returned to the Patent Office after Abraham Lincoln was elected, hoping she made way for women to work in government service. She was ahead of her time! She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973. There are numerous other achievements too many to note in this newsletter! I thoroughly enjoyed this presentation. After the presentation there was a question-and-answer time for Clara Barton.

Members' Corner is a way to share information about what our club members and what they have been doing to keep busy, fun on-line programs you've attended or are aware of, and any other items that may be of interest to the FWC, such as awards, or family celebrations. Please email the newsletter editor, Nancy Gale, NanLG@aol.com, with anything that you'd like to share. We'll include it in our next issue.

Contact Us

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P. O. Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875
Email - franklinwomansclub@gmail.com
Website - <http://franklinwomansclub.com>

General Federation of Women's Clubs website - <http://www.gfwc.org>

To obtain a Member ID contact the webmaster at webmaster@njsfwc.org. In your e-mail include our club name (Franklin Woman's Club), district (College), and preferred username. You will receive an email with a temporary password. This individual member login gives you access to a lot of additional information not available to the general public.



New Jersey State Federation Women's Club website- <http://www.njsfwc.org>

If you'd like more information on what's happening with other Woman's Clubs around the state, check out this link to the NJSFWC's Feb Almanac – <https://njsfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/February-2022-ALMANAC.pdf>